Improvement in the Port and Shipping Sector

†1884. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any step to bring about infrastructural improvement in the port and shipping sector for increasing India's share in the global trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the growth of export and import that is projected in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government has been setting targets for exports. No targets are set for imports. In the year 2004, a Foreign Trade policy (2004-05) was announced by the Government with the aim to double exports during the next 5 years. An export target of US$ 150 billion has been set to achieve by 2008-09. Considering that most of India's EXIM trade is carried out through the sea route, the Government continuously endeavours to improve the port and shipping infrastructure in the country. Under the National Maritime Development Programme, a total of 387 projects with an investment of Rs. 100,339 crores covering the entire gamut of activities in the Major Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport (IWT) have been identified for implementation. This comprises 276 projects pertaining to Major Ports involving investment of Rs. 55,804 crores and 111 projects pertaining to Shipping and IWT sectors involving investment of Rs. 44,535 crores. The projects in Major Ports are planned to be taken up over a period upto 2011-12 and the projects in Shipping and IWT sectors are planned to be taken up over a period upto 2024-25. The Programme will be implemented through Public-Private Partnership in phases.

Funds allocated for Upgradation of Roads in M.P.

†1885. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh have sent a proposal for obtaining sanction of about Rs. 13255 lakhs, under Central Roads Fund for upgradation of important roads;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.